



Cluster for Sustainable Cities presenting at the Annual 'Thought Leadership' Event

In Creative and Cultural Industries by Jaelithe Swan 16 March, 2017 0 Comments

Professor Steffen Lehmann will be speaking at the forthcoming 'Thought Leadership' event organised by Vail Williams, entitled: 'The Future of the Solent Region'.

The annual seminar, with speakers drawn from business, local government and academia, gives insights into the future of the Solent region from an economic, political and environmental point of view. The event is by invitation only, and will be held at the Lakeside North Harbour conference centre. This year's presenters include: Anna Blackman, Partner in PwC; Donna Jones, Leader of the Portsmouth City Council; Prof Steffen Lehmann, Director of the Innovation Cluster for Sustainable Cities; and Mark Smith, Chief Executive of the Southern Co-operative.

The event will offer a range of perspectives on the Solent region, and make policy recommendations for the future of the Solent region with strategies to attract investment for growth. The aim is to develop the Solent region into one of the most competitive places in the UK to start and grow a business. The combined authority for the health portfolio is likely to allow for better development of a shared vision for the economic region. Professor Steffen Lehmann, this year's invited speaker from academia, will outline his vision of a 'Sustainable Solent 2030':

"It is a great honour to be speaking at this very important regional event. Some of the key questions at this event will be how to support a fairer society and strong communities while enhancing the Solent's urban resilience to climate change impacts. There is evidence that the universities have a positive impact on local growth and urban regeneration, helping to attract young skilled people to the Solent region. In this context, the City's role in the wider region must be better understood", he said.

"Based on the Government's recent Housing White Paper and Industrial Strategy, it will be crucial to find ways to build on the Solent's strategic strengths and deliver green growth whilst safeguarding the environment. The renewable energy sector has already emerged as the innovator and job creator. As the next step, it will be essential to move from large-scale regional planning to metropolitan urban planning to ensure our cities develop as compact, mixed-use and walkable. Today, urban regeneration is seen as one of the 21st-century most transformative trends", Prof Lehmann added.

The Innovation Cluster for Sustainable Cities brings together over 36 researchers across faculties at the University of Portsmouth, all working on issues of urban resilience. To find out more about the Cluster, please: www.city-futures.org.uk